

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I am also concerned that when I called Sinclair's headquarters to register my concerns, they did not allow me to do so. I was redirected to a taped message that informed me that I should instead call Senator Kerry and put pressure on him to participate in the programming. I am not being represented by this station and worse, they refuse to even listen to my concerns about how I am not being represented. This is not democratic, this is taxation without representation.
Thank you.